

GOPHER OVERSEA’R

Volume 70, NO. 1

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Official Publication to More Than 45,000 Members of the Department of Minnesota

February 2016 - May 2016

Minnesota VFW Office Locations

Department Headquarters:

Tate Doom
Adjutant
B52 Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 291-1757
Fax: (651) 291-2753
Email: tatemnvfw@vfwmn.us
Webpage: www.mn.gov/vfw

Department Claims Office:

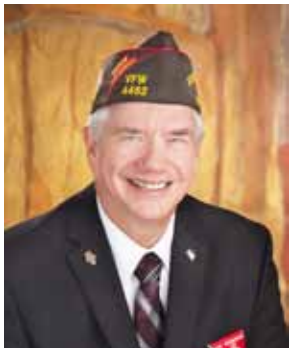
Jon Gohn
Claims Director
Whipple Federal Building, G900
1 Federal Drive
St. Paul, MN 55111
Phone: (612) 970-5669
Fax: (612) 970-5404

Minneapolis VA

Gordy Kirk
VFW Hospital Representative
Minneapolis VAMC
Phone: (612) 725-2000 ext. 4448

Auxiliary Headquarters :

Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 291-1759
Fax: (651) 291-7932



State Commander Dewey Hermanson

Member of
VFW Post 4452
Cannon Falls, MN



Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members.

I was told when I was elected Judge Advocate these would be the fastest four years in my life and this has become very true. It's hard to believe that I am writing my last article for our Gopher Oversea'r as a line officer. We are quickly approaching our annual "Changing of the Guard" within the Department of Minnesota. It has been a very interesting and educational year for me as your State Commander. I honor the time I have served in this position. My goal has always been to uphold the ideals and principles of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to make those decisions based on what was right.

Now it is on to Spring Meetings and our election season throughout the state on the Post and District level. It is time for you to start thinking about throwing your hat into the ring and run for office. Office holders at all levels are the backbone to the success of our entire Department. We need people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work for the advancement of all of the things we do for our veterans and our communities.

Your Spring District Meetings are only as successful as the people who attend them. District meetings are a great place to pick up all the latest information that is happening at Department and National. I ask each Commander at their Post to encourage as many members to attend your District Meetings and that they bring back as much information as they can to the post membership.

Although this year is almost over there is still a lot of work that needs to be done, specifically in membership. The National organization along with the Department of Minnesota needs the membership in order to protect our rights as veterans. We can ONLY do that via membership to show the lawmakers that WE care. If WE don't care... THEY won't care! Let me encourage you to put forth every effort to reach this goal. Let's get our Department to the top. We have 36 Posts over 100% at the time of this article, Congratulations.

Yes we have a lot of "other" things that we are involved in, including the scholarship programs, community service, etc. However, the REASON we are here is to provide support to our "veterans and family members of veterans".

By the time you read this we will be only weeks away from the State Convention. I ask you to give your support to Joe Mauricio and the rest of the Department Team. YOU are the boots on the ground. YOU have the most impact in your own local community.

Once again, I thank you for allowing me the high honor of serving as your State Commander.

97th State Convention - A "Grand" Time

As the V.F.W. year winds down, we look to the 97th Annual State Convention. This is a time to REFLECT on the Year's trials, CELEBRATE the accomplishments, and PREPARE for the 2016-17 year. State Commander Duane Hermanson hopes that this year's Convention will do just that as we gather in the Historic Rochester Kahler Grand Hotel, June 8-12, 2016. As the event schedule details, there will be many meetings and events held throughout the weekend including both V.F.W. and Auxiliary Council meetings, Training programs, Awards, the Annual Memorial Service and Convention Banquet.

VENUE

We once again return to the City of Rochester and our host- the Kahler Grand Hotel. Built in 1921, this property features a hint of the past and boasts newly renovated rooms with modern comforts. The Kahler staff is going out of their way to make our visit enjoyable. All Convention meetings will take place in the Kahler Grand meeting facilities located in the subway level of the Hotel. While at the Kahler, enjoy breakfast in the Hotel restaurant or a quick coffee and Danish at Starbucks or Dunkin' Doughnuts. You may even wish to venture across the street to the Panekoeken Restaurant for an amazing breakfast or baked item. Enjoy the Sky light pool and head out to dinner or a comedy show while you are in Rochester. If you desire a short walk to the meetings and a little larger room or suite, you may also choose to stay at the Kahler Inn & Suites. Located about one block west of the Kahler Grand, the Inn & Suites has a pool and includes a complimentary deluxe hot breakfast. No matter where you stay, the Kahler properties will help you feel at home.

REFLECT

Our organization prides itself on the camaraderie and honor we bestow upon our fellow Veterans. To this end, perhaps the most sacred portion of the V.F.W. year is our Annual Memorial Service conducted Friday evening at the Convention. This year's speaker will be Rachel Paterson, a past Minnesota State Level Voice of Democracy Student. She is the founder of 'Abiding Bronze Star' whose mission is to help Veterans receive the medals and recognition they deserve. She is a young, dynamic speaker and this is sure to be the most touching event of the weekend.

One of the largest keys to improvement is reviewing past practices and attempted activities. This is accomplished through various opportunities for discussion. The Council of Administration meets Thursday evening with any business needing action and the opportunity to meet National Representatives. Joining us for the State convention will be VFW Past National Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius and Auxiliary National Guard Sandra Onstwedder. Committees will meet Friday to discuss proposed By-Law changes and Committee reports will be presented Saturday morning when the Convention convenes. During this time, there will be the nomination of Department Officers for the 2016-17 year. There will be an opportunity for each District to Caucus and meet the candidates prior to Sunday's Convention. During the Sunday Convention Meeting Committee's will wrap up and the election of Officers will ensue.

CELEBRATE

Whether the Victories are large or small, personal or organizational, State Con-

vention is the place to Celebrate! The festivities start with the Joint Awards session Friday morning. Here we honor the outstanding accomplishments of our Posts and Auxiliaries. This includes many of our programs including Poppies, Community Service and Publications. The Auxiliary names their Auxiliaries of the Year and the V.F.W. will name the All-State Post Quartermasters and Commanders... some of the greatest honors bestowed upon a Post.

Saturday's banquet brings an opportunity to honor those that serve our communities. The 97th Annual Convention Banquet will serve as a celebration of the Safety Award recipients, Scout of the Year honoree, and Employer of the Year. Our Teacher of the Year winners will also be recognized followed by perhaps the most anticipated announcement- the Captain of the All-State Commanders Team. This is sure to be a humbling and exciting evening!

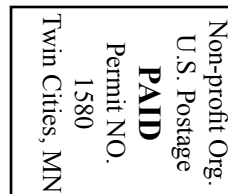
The final celebration is the Joint Installation of Officers Sunday after the Conventions close where both V.F.W. and Auxiliary Officers will be installed. Following the ceremony, the incoming Commander and President will host a reception at the Rochester Post #1215. Please join them as they anticipate the excitement of their upcoming year.

PREPARE

The June State Convention holds valuable opportunities to prepare for the 2016-17 year. All newly elected program chairs, officers and members on all levels will want to learn about all that the V.F.W. and Auxiliary do and how it should be done. Training will start on Wednesday, June 8th

Cont. Page 3

Please use the form on the reverse side to note any address changes



Department of Minnesota, VFW
20 W 12th St
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Save The Date!! Upcoming VFW Events

Poppy Card Distribution
April 15, 2016

Poppy Distribution Day
May 20 - 21, 2016

Memorial Day Observances
May 30, 2016
Participate Locally

**State Convention &
Officers Training Institute (OTI)**
June 8 - 12, 2016
Rochester, MN

July Council of Administration
July 16, 2016
So. St. Paul

National Convention
July 23 - 27, 2016
Charlotte, NC

State Fall Conference
September 9 - 11, 2016
Mahnomon

****Red Events are Department Events****

Membership

by Scott Bill, State Membership Chairman

Hello Comrades,

Are you ready for some elections? Post and District elections are in April. It is a great time to come down to the Post, join in the decision-making and maybe run for a position. This is a volunteer organization but if you take a leadership role, the VFW really needs you to put forth a strong effort to lead this organization into the future. This Facebook page we use to generate ideas for our membership classes and OTI is MN-VFWTECH. I feel the greatest take away is getting into your community and interact. Invite new Veteran-friendly organizations into your Post. Use social media to tout the great activities you do and how you support your community through those activities. If we can engage the younger generation through these activities, the membership will come. We just need to try.

To keep/attract young members: Adopt a “try before you buy” open-door policy and move meetings to the evenings, when more young veterans can attend. Other options are to offer free childcare as well as working closely with the Student Veterans of America (SVA) in many of the colleges. I do realize there are many of you that may not have a college near your respective Post. You may have to continue to recruit the old fashion way, door-to-door and phone calls, as well as, local fairs or guns shows. Whatever is happening in your community that is where you need a membership table to be seen. Remember, even if you don’t have a member that can get you set up on Facebook, I bet you have a child or grandchild who could help set it up. They are growing up in this fast-paced tech world so ask them to help your Post.

Memstats as of 26 March 2016: Very nice work to the 6th, 7th, and 2nd Districts for being greater than 95% on Membership. Comrades from 4th, 5th, and 8th Districts, please try to push a little harder to help us get to where we need to be by June.

Minnesota as of Saturday, March 26, 2016														
State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont.	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	City	State	N/R LM
District Totals		1	3945	44	6	795	4790	5052	94.81%					28
District Totals		2	4606	44	11	1017	5678	5972	95.07%					11
District Totals		3	1262	13	2	281	1558	1655	94.13%					3
District Totals		4	1672	27	7	418	2124	2268	93.65%					2
District Totals		5	2053	4	1	326	2384	2559	93.16%					11
District Totals		6	5507	52	19	821	6399	6648	96.25%					23
District Totals		7	7219	97	18	956	8290	8696	95.33%					24
District Totals		8	2310	18	9	751	3088	3295	93.71%					6
District Totals		9	3607	28	9	605	4249	4475	94.94%					7
District Totals		99	1602	81	63	421	2167	2310	93.80%					23
State Totals			33783	408	145	6391	40727	42930	94.86%					138

Congratulations to these individuals for recruiting six (6) or more as of 26 March 2016:

Dominic R. Anspach Post 246 (13)	Robert G. Gindorff Post 1782 (10)	David L. Adams Post 1782 (8)	David V. Benoit Post 6992 (8)	David Buhr Jr Post 6316 (8)
Nathan C. Lee Post 1216 (7)	Michael H. Pierce Post 3723 (7)	Thomas A. French Post 6913 (6)	Jarrod T. Mc Reynolds Post 3915 (6)	Scott R. Hanson Post 3915 (6)

Thank you to all the Posts who have achieved 100% or greater:

186	1	21	0	0	17	38	38	100.00%	WANAMINGO	MN
878	1	87	1	0	3	91	90	101.11%	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	MN
6913	1	65	6	0	20	91	91	100.00%	CHATFIELD	MN
8941	1	10	0	0	6	16	15	106.66%	ELENDIALE	MN
8980	1	27	4	0	8	39	37	105.40%	STEWARTVILLE	MN
9647	1	46	5	0	11	62	58	106.89%	ORONOCO	MN
11542	1	24	2	0	14	40	39	102.56%	LA CRESCENT	MN
2854	2	16	1	0	7	24	24	100.00%	JORDAN	MN
7266	2	33	0	0	1	34	34	100.00%	NEW AUBURN	MN
2603	3	39	2	1	15	57	55	103.63%	WILMONT	MN
2980	3	47	0	0	10	57	57	100.00%	IVANHOE	MN
1782	4	356	20	5	84	465	462	100.64%	WHITE BEAR LAKE	MN
5909	5	68	0	0	1	69	69	100.00%	WHEATON	MN
7902	5	266	0	0	9	275	274	100.36%	OSAKIS	MN
1721	6	46	0	0	1	47	45	104.44%	PALISADE	MN
2747	6	72	3	2	17	94	94	100.00%	MC GREGOR	MN
3460	6	87	0	0	3	90	90	100.00%	WATKINS	MN
6992	6	425	9	0	25	459	454	101.10%	SAUK RAPIDS	MN
8508	6	104	2	0	18	124	121	102.47%	AKELEY	MN
10794	6	64	2	6	44	116	106	109.43%	MILACA	MN
217	7	171	0	0	41	212	210	100.95%	MINNEAPOLIS	MN
1221	8	75	0	0	10	85	69	123.18%	HIBBING	MN
3858	9	20	0	0	6	26	26	100.00%	GRYGLA	MN
4930	9	40	2	0	1	43	41	104.87%	WARROAD	MN
5252	9	103	1	0	15	119	117	101.70%	PELICAN RAPIDS	MN
6033	9	17	0	0	6	23	23	100.00%	AUDUBON	MN
8165	9	44	2	0	7	53	52	101.92%	WOLF LAKE	MN
9880	9	54	0	1	1	56	56	100.00%	OGEA	MN

Ambassador Program

The definition of an ambassador is an authorized representative or messenger. This is what each member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars becomes when we engage potential members. We all represent this great organization and we all have the ability to recruit even during mundane tasks like going to the grocery store.

Organized recruiting events offer an opportunity to be in front of potential members in venues where they are seeking information. Every local auto, gun, craft, wedding, employment show/fair offers an opportunity to host an information booth. These are great opportunities to recruit new members and re-engage with members who have not been active with their local post for a while.

Each event a Post or District attends, the Department will pay up to the cost of the space, or the actual cost, whichever is less.

To claim reimbursements send the event receipt to the Department Quartermaster. Please also carbon copy (cc via email) the Department Membership Chair (Scott Bill) and including digital photos is greatly appreciated!

Department has banners, tablecloths, and pamphlets/flyers available for your event. How to reserve a booth and materials: Email, send a letter, or stop at Department Headquarters and talk to Adjutant, Tate Doom. Email: tatemnfvw@vfwmn.us.

POST AWARD

HIGHEST MINNESOTA MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE AND NUMERICAL GAIN-POST:

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Highest Membership Percentage and Numerical Gain by a Post in Minnesota in 2016. DEADLINE: May 16, 2016 (Memstats data)

MOST NEW AND/OR REINSTATED MEMBERS-POST:

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Minnesota Post with the most NEW and/or REIN-

STATED members for 2016. DEADLINE: May 16, 2016 (Memstats data) **MOST LIFE MEMBERS RECRUITED-POST:**

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Minnesota Post that has recruited the most Life members during the current membership year. Minimum number of members recruited to qualify is 15. DEADLINE: May 16, 2016 (Memstats data)

MOST YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH-POST:

A certificate plus a stipend of \$100 to go into the Post Relief Fund will be awarded at the State Convention honoring the Post with the Most Years of Consecutive Membership Growth. In addition, certificates will be awarded to the next four (4) Posts with the Most Years of Membership Growth. Based upon ACTUAL June 30, 2015 totals DEADLINE: May 16, 2016

Contest winner will receive a citation along with a \$100 stipend to be placed in the Post Relief Fund to help needy Veterans with membership.

This is my last Gopher Oversea'r as Membership Chair, I have enjoyed the year but we still have work to do. Please do not stop now. If you have questions, please email me at scottbill15@gmail.com.

Community Service

by Rick Bugbee Jr. Vice Commander

I just returned from the Legislative Conference/V.O.D. Awards in Washington D.C., what a great event. The young people's faces were a treat to watch as the winners of the various awards were announced. Our Minnesota student did not win the big one but I am sure she learned a lot and appreciates the VFW for what we have done for her.

The Legislative Conference was busy as we had all of our Representatives and Senators scheduled for Tuesday. There were twelve of us to split up and talk with them. John Kline and Betty McCullum were the only ones that we did not meet with in person. I was impressed with Rick Nolan and of course Collin Peterson on their attitudes and how they really want to help the veterans. I was very appreciative that Gary Anderson was with me, he is very knowledgeable and can learn a lot from him. It was a long day but as Gary put it, “a great day”. Thank you to the VFW members in the State of Minnesota for the trip.

I have been asked to continue with Community Service for the 2016/17 year. I will oversee this program and I hope we can get more posts and/or auxiliaries to attend our training sessions to learn. The depart-



ment does not schedule these just to give a chairman something to do. We have some really great reporting but there are some that do not report anything. This is something we need to change. OTI is coming up so there will be a session in Rochester, also there will be two classes in Mahanomen at Fall Conference. Please plan on attending.

I am asking for all of your support in the upcoming election in June, as I am running for the office of Sr. Vice Commander. Thanks for all the support and Hospitalities that you have given me.

Be Part of the Legislative Process to Protect Veterans Rights and Entitlements.... PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES or Better Yet, Become a Life Member

GOPHER OVERSEAS'R

Editor, Department of Minnesota, VFW
Rice Street Station, P.O. Box 17146, Saint Paul, MN 55117
Phone:(651)291-1757 - Fax:(651)291-2753
Email: mnfvw@vfwmn.us - Webpage: www.mn.gov/vfw

Publications Committee: Dewey Hermanson, Commander; Joe Mauricio, Sr. Vice Commander; Rick Bugbee, Jr. Vice Commander; Tom Hanson, Judge Advocate and Tate Doom, Adjutant. The Gopher Oversea'r is the official publication of the Department of Minnesota, VFW. It is published three times a year out of the State Headquarters building at: State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St. Saint Paul, MN 55155. This years deadlines are July 28th, November 24th, and March 30th 2015

To: VFW National Headquarters
Data Entry Department
406 West 36th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Please Note the below address change: (Please Print)

Name:

Address:

City:

State and Zip:

Post Number:

Senior Vice Commander

by Joe Mauricio, State Sr. Vice Commander

Hi Comrades:

Another year has come to a end. I know that a lot of Posts have lost a lot of members due to passing on, just like my Post. I know that it will be hard to replace them but if everyone would get at least one new member it can be done.

In the month of April all Posts and

Districts elect New officers and staff. Now if one works together you should have a good year. Don't forget when the new and younger members want to get involved let them and help them out. They have new ideas, so why not listen to them, with their input and your ideas it can work. Good luck with your upcoming year and if you need help ask.

Cont. from Page 1

with a special session for District Officers. On Thursday, schools of instruction will be available for everyone. Registration for Training will also include a light, continental breakfast as well as lunch.

For V.F.W. and Men's Auxiliary Members, there is the 32nd Annual Officer's Training Institute (OTI). The Commander's School will cover everything from Leadership to Membership and Programs to Veterans Benefits. Instructors will include some of our most knowledgeable leaders in Minnesota. The Quartermaster School will cover best practices in handling funds, bookkeeping, rules & regulations and much more.

Auxiliary members can participate in the Auxiliary Training Seminar a.k.a. ATS (formerly ALOT). Attendees will gain an understanding of how the Auxiliary functions and the many programs that are conducted. After the general session, attendees will enjoy special breakout sessions including Treasurers & By-Law Reviews and District Officers & Inspections.

The Gambling Seminar will again be held the afternoon of Friday, June 10th. This important session should be attended by all Gambling Managers and would be helpful to any gambling employees as well as Post Officers. Here you will learn about important guidelines and restrictions that can help Posts run successful, legal gambling operations.

Whether you are a member or an officer, there is much to be gained in attending training.

NATIONAL VFW REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Kurpius
Past Commander-in-Chief, 2006-2007



Gary Kurpius was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 31, 2006, at the VFW 107th national convention, held in Reno, Nevada. He is the first member to be elected to this office from Alaska.

Gary served in the U. S. Army from 1967-69. In Vietnam he served with the 541st Transportation Company providing convoy security throughout the central highlands. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1970, Gary joined VFW Post 1539 in Babbitt, Minnesota, where he became a life member in 1976. He earned the

title of All American Post Commander in 1977, and in 1983 was named All American District Commander. Kurpius also served as Minnesota VFW Claims Service Officer (before moving to Alaska). Gary transferred to VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, Alaska, in 1985 and is currently a Life Member of VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla.

He served as the Department of Alaska service officer for 19 years and was also the Department Adjutant. Gary was elected Department Commander and earned All American Department Commander status in 2001.

Gary completed a four-year millwright apprenticeship and graduated in 1977 from Minnesota's Lake Superior State College in Duluth. He also attended Vermillion Community College.

Gary is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. In 1999 he received the Alaska Community Service Medal. He was selected Vietnam Veteran of the Year for St. Louis County in Minnesota by President Jimmy Carter and recently completed a two-year term as Governor Tony Knowles appointee to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

Gary and his wife, Nancy, reside in Wasilla. They have three grown children.

Sandra Onstwedder
National Guard
2015-2016



Sandra Onstwedder, White Cloud, Michigan, was elected National Guard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 102nd National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 22, 2015.

A Life Member of Renner-Lobker Auxiliary #3306, she joined on the eligibility of her brother, who served in the United States Navy 1963-1967.

She has served in several capacities for the organization, including Auxiliary, District President and as

State President she earned Outstanding President of the Year for her membership group. On the National level she has served as Director for the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen and Americanism/Patriotic Instructor programs and Big Ten Chairman for the Veterans & Family Support and Community Service programs.

She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties. In her spare time she enjoys exploring the great outdoors.

Sandra and husband Charles' family includes five children, 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Amazon Prime Purchases Help VFW Programs

There is a quick and easy way for you to support the Department of Minnesota, VFW through our Charitable Association with no cost to you. The catch, is you have to be an Amazon Prime member. Amazon is an online retailer that ships millions of products to your home. If you are an Amazon Prime member you can set up free account called Amazon Smiles Donations. You will need to search for the Department of Minnesota, VFW Charitable Association and

select it. Then you are done and do not ever need to think about it again. From there you shop as you normally would. Amazon will remember which organization you selected and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to the VFW for use in our programs.

Any questions on this program call the Department office and ask to speak with Tate Doom at 651-291-1757 or email at: tatemnvfw@vfwmn.us

**REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE...
MEMORIAL DAY, 2016**

Ladies Auxiliary

Millie Lauer, State Auxiliary President

Comrades & Sisters:

Where has the year gone? As I sit down to write this article I realize it is the last one that I will be writing for the Gopher Oversea'r. As most of you know, there have been some major changes in my personal life this winter and it has been a challenge to deal with maintaining a "happy face" sometimes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Comrades & Sisters who have given me the support & love much needed at this time. The VFW & VFW Auxiliary have been great and I truly appreciate it.

The last few months have been filled with meetings here, there and everywhere. I had the opportunity to join Commander Dewey to escort Minnesota's Voice of Democracy winner to the stage when we were in Washington, D.C. for the Legislative Conference. I also accompanied the VFW delegation from Minnesota when they went "to the hill" to speak with Representatives and Senators from Minnesota. It had been several years since I had been in Washington, D.C. and it has a momentum all its own.

Membership is moving along. We are hoping to reach the 95% by the deadline and we are very close but it is the time of year when membership & dues tend to slow down. Let's give that extra push during this time and see what we can do. Prospective members are out there, we just need to find them.

Poppy Day is almost here. Have you ordered your poppies so you are ready to go? If not, get on it. I always enjoyed doing the Poppy Cards. In a small town like Perham the businesses see you coming and they are reaching for the checkbook or cash and are eager to tell you what has been happening.

It is also year-end report time. Chairman, Presidents, other officers AND all members, it takes everyone to report what they have been doing so credit can be taken on the year-end reports. Only you know the little deeds and kindness you do for our veterans & or communities. Make sure credit is taken where due. Brag, brag, brag and pat yourself on the back while letting the rest of us know what is happening.

The VFW & Auxiliary year are winding down. The State Convention will be held in June at Rochester, MN. Commander Dewey & I will be passing the torch to the new officers. Thank you for allowing me to be your Department President this year, I hope I have served you proudly. However, just because the year is almost over the work is not. Let's not drop the ball, keep up the many good deeds you are doing.

Auxiliary Membership

Frankie Bill, State Auxiliary Membership Chairman

Brothers and Sisters, the VFW Auxiliary is gearing up to promote its second *Membership* drive of this program year. **April 10th – 16th, 2016** is National *Membership* Week. Go online (www.vfwauxiliary.org/2015-2016-membership-materials/) to share and download tools for your Auxiliary, District, and personal Facebook pages. There are several recruiting materials available to print and distribute in your community. The VFW Auxiliary continuously seeks patriotic men and women to join. Right here in Minnesota, we are always looking to make a difference in the lives of our local Veterans, active-duty military, and their families. For every one Veteran, there are 12 potential Auxiliary prospects. Are you one of them? Sign up today – we need you!

Plan to have a recruiting booth during the second, full week of April 2016. Consider an Open House at your local Post and Auxiliary. Are there any local schools, church events, or shows (e.g., craft, auto,

garden, sport) that week? How about working with your community to host a *Membership* booth? Remember, the Department Office has materials to use for your recruiting table. Please contact me or the Office for



This benchmark is only a snapshot in time, but shows the outstanding work we all have done nine (9) months into this program year. We have more to do, but I am very proud of the hardwork to date and extremely eager to cross the finish line reporting 100%+. We got this!!

AD rates for the Oversea'r

Its the only way to reach 100% of this Departments Membership

The Gopher Oversea'r is the official Veterans of Foreign Wars Print in Minnesota. We Publish our paper three times a year to nearly fifty thousand Veterans in Minnesota. Our paper is four columns wide and fifteen inches deep. Please see rate chart below:

Column Depth in Inches

Columns	Width	one	two	three	four	five
1 column	2 1/4 "	\$40	\$80	\$120	\$160	\$200
2 column	4 3/4 "	\$80	\$160	\$240	\$320	\$400
3 column	7 1/2 "	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600
4 column	10"	\$160	\$320	\$480	\$640	\$800

How To Provide Us With Your Ad

The Gopher Oversea'r is published electronically on our computers in house. Our Editor imports your electronic file directly into the newspaper. We prefer you to send all ads in TIFF or PDF format.

All necessary font and graphic files relating to the ad must be included with your file. Image resolution needs to be no less then 300 dots per inch (dpi). PDF files, please embed complete fonts (not subsets) and graphics. Please do not enable any password protection or security block when creating a PDF. Convert all RGB or CMYK color to a Grayscale Format.

All ads must be "Camera Ready". If they are not you will be charged as additional twenty-five dollars.

****Before you send us any money be sure to talk to the Editor and make sure**

space is available and your Ad meets the requirements above**

The Deadlines for Ads in this years Papers are:

September 15, 2015

December 15, 2015

***all dates are subject to change**

**Plan Ahead To Make Your
Auxiliary Stronger!!!**

DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!

Claims and Service Officer Report

By: Jon Gohn, Director

Can You Receive VA Compensation and Social Security Disability

By Jon Gohn (excerpts taken from Social Security Administration Website)

Many veterans receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for disability for their time in service, but many of them are unaware of the fact that they can receive disability benefits from the Social Security Administration. If you or someone you know cannot work because of disabilities that are service related or not, this article is meant for you.

The effect of military service can be profound and life lasting. There are a number of financial, social, and health issues that result from military service. Some Wounded Warriors and Veterans Who Have a Compensation Rating of 100% P&T are unaware that Social Security may expedite the processing of their disability claims. Military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims from Social Security. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Starting March 17, 2014, veterans who have a VA compensation rating of 100% permanent and total (P&T) may receive expedited processing of applications for Social Security disability benefits. Both Social Security and VA pay disability benefits. However, their programs, processes, and criteria for receiving benefits are very different.

A VA compensation rating of 100% Permanent and Total does not guarantee that you will receive Social Security disability benefits. To be approved for Social Security benefits, you must meet Social Security's definition of "disability." To be found disabled:

- You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition(s); and
- Your medical condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or to result in death.

If you receive VA compensation, this will not affect your Social Security benefits.

First, you must apply for Social Security disability benefits. You can do this in one of three ways:

- Complete your application online;
- Call the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call us at TTY 1-800-325-0778; or
- Call or visit your local Social Security office.

To receive expedited processing, you must:

1. Identify yourself as a "veteran rated 100% P&T" when you apply for benefits.
- If you apply in person or over the phone, please tell the Social Security representative you talk to that you are a veteran rated 100% P&T.
- If you apply online, please enter "Veteran 100% P&T" in the "Remarks" section of the application so that they can identify you and expedite your application.

2. Provide your VA Notification letter which verifies your 100% P&T rating to Social Security.

The length of time it takes Social Security to make a disability decision depends on several different factors, but primarily on:

- The nature of your disability;
- How quickly we obtain medical evidence from your doctor or other medical sources; and
- Whether it is necessary to send you for a medical examination in order to obtain evidence to support your claim.

You can help speed up the process by having the needed information on hand when you apply.

If your application for Social Security disability benefits is approved, you will receive Medicare coverage automatically after you have received disability benefits for 24 months. For service members who are entitled to Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance), TRICARE provides Medicare "wraparound" coverage.

Medicare is the primary payer for these beneficiaries, and TRICARE serves as a supplement, paying the Medicare deductible and patient cost share.

If you are a retiree and are concerned that your military payments would disqualify you please note the following. Active duty status and receipt of military pay does not, in itself, necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Receipt of military payments should never stop you from applying for disability benefits from Social Security. If you are receiving treatment at a military medical facility and working in a designated therapy program or on limited duty, we will evaluate your work activity to determine your eligibility for benefits.

You cannot receive Social Security disability benefits if you engage in substantial work for pay or profit. However, the actual work activity is the controlling factor and not the amount of pay you receive or your military duty status.

If you think you may be eligible please contact the SSA at (800)772-1213 or check their website out at <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/>

Minnesota Expands Access to Benefits for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans MNDVA and MN Dept. of Human Services, March 31, 2016

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – Today the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced a new effort to provide Minnesota's homeless and at-risk Veterans with expanded access to Social Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

SOAR, which stands for SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery, is a nationwide program funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SOAR helps people with disabilities gain access to SSI and SSDI by identifying people who may be eligible, assisting in preparing high-quality applications, compiling necessary documentation, and supporting individuals throughout the application process. In Minnesota, DHS already collaborates with counties, Tribal governments and non-profit organizations to provide individuals with advocacy and services when applying for SSI/SSDI. This state-federal partnership builds on DHS's work by implementing a SOAR approach to connect Veterans with SSI/SSDI benefits more quickly. Homeless and at-risk Veterans in Minnesota will be provided with a personal SOAR advocate to guide them through the federal application process and help alleviate factors which typically lengthen the time needed to determine a disability claim. These factors often include access to military medical records and other critical documents or verifications.

"We are excited to work together with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to help connect Veterans to the services they need and deserve. Too many of our men and women – who have sacrificed so much of their personal health – now find themselves literally out in the cold," said Commissioner Emily Johnson Piper, DHS.

Homeless and at-risk Veterans applying for benefits face a variety of barriers, including lack of a permanent address, contact information or transportation. For those with a mental illness, substance use issues, or co-occurring disorders that impair cognition, the application process is even more difficult – yet accessing these benefits is often a critical first step in recovery. The income from SSI/SSDI could also help homeless and at-risk Veterans secure stable housing.

"We're all in this together, with a shared goal of helping Veterans with disabilities gain more direct access to benefits. Connecting Veterans with an experienced advocate will not only help them navigate the process, it will help ensure applications are complete, resulting in faster determinations," said Area Director Jay Druckrey, SSA.

Outreach is also an important part of this pilot. MDVA will work closely with partners in the Veterans community, including Veteran Service Officers in all 87 counties around the state, the federal VA, and Veteran Service Organizations, to identify and connect with homeless and at-risk Veterans who may be eligible for SOAR.

"I am proud of the work we have done in Minnesota," said Commissioner Larry Shellito, MDVA. "Since 2010 we have cut Veteran homelessness in half, something we could only accomplish with help from our valuable partners. Together we can – and will – bring our Veterans all the way home." If you or someone you know may qualify for this program please contact one of the following:

The Minnesota Department of Human Services at <http://mn.gov/dhs/> or by phone 651-431-2000 (TTY/TDD service: 800-627-3529).

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs at www.MinnesotaVeteran.org or call 1-(888)-LinkVet

VA to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War March 24, 2016

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it will conduct hundreds of events in VA facilities across the nation on Mar. 29 to recognize, honor and thank U.S. Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices as part of the national Vietnam War Commemoration.

VA Secretary Robert McDonald will host a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial – "The Wall" to initiate VA's contribution to the Commemoration. He will be joined by Defense Secretary Ashton Carter. "We are proud to partner with the Department of Defense in this endeavor. Secretary Carter's Vietnam War Commemoration staff has greatly assisted us in planning this humble tribute to our Viet-

nam Veterans and their families."

VA, along with more than 9,000 organizations across the country, has joined with the Department of Defense as a Commemorative Partner to help Americans honor our nation's Vietnam Veterans.

Authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President in May 2012, the Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Nine million Americans, approximately 7 million living today, served during that period, and the Commemoration makes no distinction between Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call of duty.

"This Commemoration has special significance for those of us at VA because of our honored mission to serve those who have "borne the battle," said McDonald. "It's also an opportunity to remember our VA colleagues who served in this generation of Veterans, to extend our heartfelt appreciation to them and to their families who shared the burden of their loved one's service."

More than 329 VA medical centers, regional benefit offices and national cemeteries will host events, many in partnership with local Veteran service organizations and volunteers.

By presidential proclamation issued on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from its inaugural event on Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025.

Commemorative Partners – local, state and national organizations, businesses, corporations and governmental agencies – have committed to publicly thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families on behalf of the nation and have pledged to host a minimum of two events annually.

To learn more about the Vietnam War Commemoration, go to: www.vietnam-war50th.com



On March 1, 2016, the Minnesota VFW Delegation visited with Senator Al Franken during the Annual VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.. The Minnesota Delegation met with all eight (8) Congressmen and both Senators.

They discussed all of the VFW Legislative Goals as outlined in the in the Legislative column on Page 5.

Pictured (l-r) row one; Cheryl Hermanson, Nanci Bohmer, Senator Franken, State Commander Dewey Hermanson and State Adjutant Tate Doom. Row two; State Senior Vice Commander Jow Mauricio, State Legislative Chairman Tom McLaughlin, State President Millie Lauer, State Junior Vice Commander Rick Bugbee, National Council Member Gary Anderson and State Surgeon Dr. Jim Tuorila.

Need Help with your Veterans Benefits and Entitlements?

CALL the VFW Claims Service Office at:

612-970-5669

Capitol Hill Press

by Tom McLaughlin, State Legislative Chairman

The Department of Minnesota has been very busy with Legislative issues in 2016. We started the year in Washington, D.C. for our Annual Legislative Conference, which was February 28 - March 2, where we received our National Legislative Priorities for 2016. As we made the rounds on Capitol Hill, we were able to meet with eight out of the ten members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and ask them for their support of our National Legislative Priorities.

Our National VFW Legislative Staff in Washington also encouraged us to advise our Posts and Membership to be active in the upcoming elections on the local, State and National level. They encouraged us to make our Posts available for Candidate forums, Town Hall meetings and other election activities. It is permitted for our Membership to wear their caps and participate in political events as long as it is made clear they are there to speak as a Veteran and not as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Our Legislative Priorities and Talking points are as listed below; this information is to be used when we have conversations with our elected congressional members and candidates for National Office.

Framework for Veterans Health Care Reform

Background:

In the mid- I 990s, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system was transformed from a hospital-based system to an outpatient health care network system. This change saw the advent of community-based outpatient clinics and a shift towards providing each veteran a full continuum of care - ending the practice of only treating veterans for their service-connected disabilities and leaving them on their own for the rest of their health care. In 2010, VA improved veterans' health care again by empowering primary care providers to view and coordinate all the health care a veteran receives by delivering care to veterans through the patient-centered medical home model.

The number of veterans using VA health care has continued to increase, however the resources VA is given to meet higher than expected demand has not kept pace. This has led VA leadership to make decisions on how best to deliver care within the budget they are given. Coupled with wrong doing and a general culture that is resistant to change, the VA health care system now faces difficult challenges meeting its obligation to the more than 6.7 million veterans who rely on VA health care professionals for their health care needs.

In response to the VA health care access crisis that erupted in 2014, Congress established the Veterans Choice Program to get veterans off waiting lists and start VA down the path of providing veterans more health care options. While the Choice Program continues to provide community care options to thousands of veterans, it will eventually need to be combined with other community care programs to create a single and sustainable community care program that integrates the private sector into the VA health care system.

Way Forward:

- VA must establish Veteran-Centered Integrated Health Care Networks to integrate the capabilities and strengths of existing local health care resources - VA, other public providers and private providers -to meet the needs of veterans in each health care market or community without eroding the quality of care veterans receive from VA medical facilities.
- Congress must move away from establishing arbitrary access standards like 30 days and 40 miles and enable veterans and their doctors to determine how long veterans should wait or how far they are able to travel to receive their health care.
- VA must establish a nationwide urgent care system to ensure veterans have access to urgent care options at VA medical facilities and urgent care clinics in their community, with no added cost to veterans.
- Reform VA's capital infrastructure processes to incorporate public/private partnerships and ensure VA's infrastructure



is nimble enough to adjust to changes in demand.

- VA must convert its current planning model into a new Quadrennial Veterans Review, Future Years Veterans Program and a Planning, Programming Budgeting and Execution system to align its resources with its mission and establish a biennial independent audit to identify accounts and programs that are susceptible to waste, fraud and abuse.
- Congress must reform the VA health care appropriations process to ensure VA is able to meet the demand on its health care system.
- Congress must ensure VA has the authority to quickly recruit, hire, train, retain and discipline its workforce.

Women Veterans

Ensuring women veterans receive the benefits and services that honor their brave military service is one of the VFW's top priorities. Currently, women comprise 15 percent of the active duty military and 18 percent of the Guard and Reserve. With the steady increase of women wearing our nation's uniform and their increased role in military operations, it has never been more important that women veterans have a VA that is ready and able to care for them when they transition back to civilian life.

The VFW recently conducted a survey of women veterans to better understand their unique needs. The biggest concern we found is the lack of women specific health care at VA medical facilities. For example, women veterans told us that VA mental health care is not properly tailored to meet the gender-specific needs of women veterans. Veterans want and deserve to have mental health care providers with a background and understanding of the differences between women's and men's mental health needs. Women veterans also informed the VFW that they wish VA would hire more women health care professionals across all specialties to support their growing population.

VA is exempt from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requirement for health programs to cover preventative services without out-of-pocket costs. This is a particular concern for women who receive VA family planning services. While VA offers a broad array of birth control options for women veterans, it does not exempt preventative care prescriptions from copayments.

The VFW was pleasantly surprised that 98 percent of the women veterans who participated in our survey reported they self identify as a veteran or someone who served in the United States military, but VA employees continue to confuse women veterans for spouses or caregivers, and even challenge their veteran status. To the VFW, this is unacceptable. All veterans who enter VA facilities are equally deserving of the respect and dignity they have earned.

The VFW also heard from homeless or at risk women veterans with children are significantly more likely than their non homeless counterparts to report that access to child care services would improve their ability to obtain health care. Homeless veterans with children are also concerned that the lack of child care options impacts their ability to complete employment and training programs. Homeless veterans who are not afforded the opportunity to complete training programs and receive the health care they need may not be able to maintain meaningful employment or a permanent home.

VFW's Solutions:

- VA must expand its designated women's health program to include mental health care to ensure veterans have access to mental health care providers who understand women-specific mental health conditions.
- VA must hire more women health care professionals and offer women the opportunity to choose the gender of their health care providers.
- VA must properly train its workforce to treat women veterans with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.
- Congress must amend VA's pharmacy cost share requirements by authorizing VA to provide no out-of-pocket cost preventative care options for women veterans.
- Congress must expand VA's successful child care pilot program to ensure homeless and at risk veterans have access to childcare services when they receive outpatient and inpatient health care and job training services.
- Congress must expand Vocational Rehabilitation and Education (VR&E) eligibility requirements by authorizing VA to classify homelessness as a qualifying barrier to employment, without regard to service-connection or when a veteran was discharged from military service.

Benefits Delivery

VFW's Concerns:

The current workload of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), defined as original and supplemental disability and pension claims, stands at approximately 350,000. The "backlog," defined as disability claims pending over 125 days, is now fewer than 80,000, having fallen from over 242,000 one year ago and a high of over 600,000 in 2013. This backlog reduction has inarguably improved the VA experience for many claimants and, for that, VBA deserves praise.

That progress, however, came at the expense of other work that VBA does not define as part of its workload. The total amount of work for which VBA is responsible stands at nearly 1.6 million claims. In particular, the total number of pending appeals continues to climb, increasing by almost 36,000 in the past year. While only 22 percent of disability claims are pending over 125 days, appellants continue to wait an average of more than three years before the Board of Veterans Appeals makes its first decision on their appeals.

To address the appeals backlog, VA has proposed significant changes to the appeals process they believe would allow them to issue final decisions on all appeals within one year. This focus on speed must not come at the expense of veterans' due process rights, and will only lead to faster denials. VA is suggesting sweeping changes to the current veteran-friendly appeals process without addressing inefficiencies that exist under the current system. To do so, both VBA and the Board of Veterans Appeals will require additional staff.

Disposing of Worn US Flags – Private or Public

In August, 2000, at the VFW 101st National Convention in Milwaukee, VFW delegates passed a resolution establishing a US flag disposal program for Posts to conduct, privately or publicly.

The VFW feels individuals are responsible for maintaining the US flag in their possession, however, as a public service some VFW Posts have special details assigned for gathering and disposing* of worn national emblems. Some Posts may go further – they make gifts of new flags to groups or provide information on how to order a US flag from the VFW Store.

***SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO USE IN PRIVATE OR PUBLIC FOR DISPOSING OF A TORN, SOILED, OR BADLY FADED US FLAG.**

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner. (See VFW ritual.)

Another way VA could achieve greater efficiency is by accepting private medical evidence when deciding disability claims. While VA already has this authority, they rarely use it. Even when a veteran submits evidence from a private physician that is credible, accurate, and complete, VA often orders an additional in-house exam, creating longer wait times for veterans' claims.

VFW's Solutions:

- Require VBA to define its "workload" as all pending claims and appeals in order to accurately reflect the amount of work it has and prevent them from measuring its own success based on only one type of claim.
- Do not allow fundamental changes in the appeals process that create faster decisions simply by denying veterans' due process rights, such as eliminating the open record, the right to a review by a Decision Review Officer, and the right to an in-person hearing.
- Demand that VA speed up the appeals process by improving its own practices, such as encouraging Decision Review Officers to exercise their authority to grant claims before they go to appeal, improving decision notification letters, issuing timely Statements of the Case, and immediately certifying appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals when received without additional evidence.
- Congress must fully staff both the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Board of Veterans Appeals to ensure they have the resources necessary to address the entire workload.
- Require VA to accept medical opinions from non-VA health care providers when the evidence is sufficient for rating purposes. This will conserve VA's resources, enable quicker, more accurate rating decisions, and reduce the amount of appeals.

On March 16, 2016, hundreds of Veterans gathered at the St. Paul Armoury for the Commander's Task Force. At the "Vets Day On The Hill" we were presented with our State Veterans Legislative Goals for the 2016 State Legislative Session. After the Rally at the Armoury, many VFW Members went up to the State and Senate Office Buildings for meetings with their individual representatives to share our message. This election year when someone knocks on your door asking for your vote, let them know that you are a Veteran and a VFW Member asking them to support our Legislative issues. I will be conducting a Legislative School of Instruction for all Post Officers during the State Convention June 8 - 12, 2016 in Rochester.

Our Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary membership have been a strong influence on our elected officials over the years in passing legislation that has benefited our Veterans and their Families. The need is greater than ever and we all need to "Honor the Dead by Serving the Living".

2. It is important that the fire be sizeable and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.

3. Place the flag on the fire.

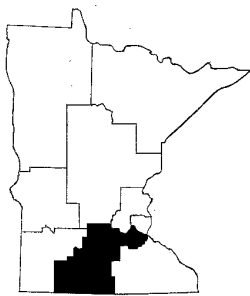
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.

5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.

6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

Approved for distribution by the VFW National Citizenship Education and Community Service Committee, September 18, 2000.

News from YOUR District Commanders and Presidents!



**Michael Labovitch, Commander
Second District**

Two Points:

1. While the year is almost over and we (as a District) have accomplished a lot: a) All our Posts are inspected and the paper work has been turned in. b) Our Commander's Project "Rebuilding the Green House at the Hastings Veterans Home" is on track and it is my understanding we are very near to breaking ground on the new structure. c) Our VOD and Patriots Pen District Winners for this year came with their families to our January Meeting and read their Speeches and Essays at the Joint session of the Posts and Auxiliaries. d) South St. Paul Post 295 and its Auxiliaries hosted for the Joint Testimonial for Michelle and myself. However, the highlight of the afternoon was when the former Ladies Auxiliary retired its original Charter (issued in 1920) to a place of prominence in the Post Home and then brought forward their new Charter signifying the beginning of a new era for the VFW and its Auxiliary.

2. We are not done yet. Here are some loose ends we need to work on: a) Attendance at District meetings: A couple of Districts have had 100% attendance at least one of their District Meetings during the year. The Second District has not! Your next and final opportunity to change that is the Second District Convention on April 30, 2016 at Chaska VFW Post 1791. b) Membership: I know that we all are aware that Membership is the back bone of the organ-

ization and it is something we can't let up on. Yet, at this time of the year we often do. Let's not! Instead I am asking the Second District to make one final push for membership and just maybe you will see us in the #1 spot at the Department Convention in Rochester. Wouldn't that be great! c) Generally, the Second District has a more than respectable turn out at the Department Convention for OTI and the first two days. But come Sunday Morning when the vote for Department Officers is taken, our numbers dwindle significantly and we are never able to vote our full strength. I'd like to see that change, especially this year since I am a candidate for the office of Department Judge Advocate for the year 2016-2017. If you would like to help me in my quest, your Post needs to have at least one member in the Convention floor on Sunday morning when the session opens and throughout the election.

**Michelle Smallidge, President
Second District**

Greeting from the 2nd District,

Our district is getting ready for our Loyalty Days on April 30th in Chaska. We will be having our annual auction, flag retirement ceremony, election of officers and installation.

The 2nd District will be hosting games night at the VA Mpls Center on April 26th. It is always an enjoyable evening.

Unfortunately, our District has lost 5 auxiliaries to date. With one auxiliary deciding on what to do. These auxiliaries are closing because of lack of participation and elected officers not able to perform their duties. With elections coming up please think about holding an office and making a difference in this organization. We can always use some new ideas and inspiration.

I want to THANK everyone in my District for their support and generosity in making my year a great one. Best wishes to the newly elected officers.

our recruitment by attending additional local parades and county fairs. Also, we will be recruiting by going door-to-door to attain additional members. In fact, yesterday, I visited with a Veteran and signed him up. Door-to-Door does work!

On March 16, 2016, several members of our District travelled to St. Paul for the Veterans Day on the Hill Rally. We had a chance to meet with our State Representative to discuss several issues. Some issues discussed were the possibility of the construction of a new Veterans Home in Montevideo, Minnesota. Montevideo is located just north of our District Boundary. Many of our 3rd District Veterans are patients of the Montevideo Veterans Clinic.

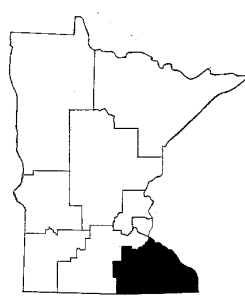
April 23, 2016, will be the next 3rd District meeting. The meeting will be held in Olivia, Minnesota and hosted by Post 4097. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM which will include the election of Officers. Rick Bugbee, State Junior Vice Commander will be our special guest.

May 30th is Memorial Day. I am encouraging all members to participate in their local Memorial Day programs. It's a great way to honor our men and women who have served to preserve our freedom.

Our next State Convention and OTI is June 8 - 12, 2016 in Rochester, Minnesota. Hope to see you there!

I would like to thank everyone for all the support that I have received this past year.

Wishing everyone a great summer!



**Curt Hermanson, Commander
First District**

Greetings Comrades,

Another year has gone by and for those of us here in the 1st district it has been great. Currently the first district is ranked 5th for membership and I would like to thank everyone for their participation and our chairmen for doing a wonderful job in helping us to keep our organization strong. I am looking forward to the great events we have coming up, Loyalty Days is fast approaching.

Friday May 6th is our golf tournament at the Cannon Falls golf Course beginning at 12:30pm. Saturday, May 7th will be our next district meeting, held in Cannon Falls at 9:30; we will also be holding our officers elections at this time. I would like to remind everyone to get their reservations in for our testimonial dinner; also on May 7th, it is always an enjoyable experience and a pleasure to see everyone.

We are looking forward to the department convention June 8-12 in Rochester, MN and the National convention in North Carolina this July.

It has been a pleasure working with everyone this year; I look forward to the next year and all the great achievements yet to be made.

**Tammy Landon, President
First District**

Greeting,

The year is winding down with only a couple months to go. It has been an interesting and exciting year for me to serve as the President for the fine Auxiliary members of the 1st District.

Our February District meeting which included our Memorial Service also was outstanding and really touched all of our souls. Thanks to those who made the service so special.

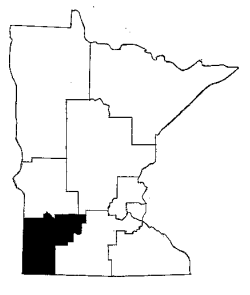
The Auxiliaries are busy finishing their yearend reports, getting them to the District Chairmen and then on to Department. District One has did some outstanding things this year.

MEMBERSHIP, District 1 is in first place with 98.18% as of March 30th. We need 48 members to reach the 100% plateau. We have 56 new members signed up this year, with a good percentage of them being male members. I have great confidence the Auxiliaries of the 1st District will step up to the plate and garner the 48 new members we need to reach the goal!

In closing I would like to thank all the Auxiliary members of the 1st District for giving me the pleasure to serve as your President. Your dedication to helping serve our Veterans is second to none.

Hope to see you all at Department Convention!

Joining Hearts and Hands for Veterans



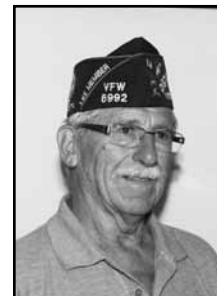
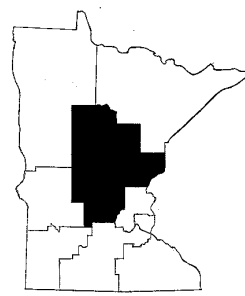
**Ed Lozinski, Commander
Third District**

Greetings from 3rd District,

We are very proud of our 3rd District Voice of Democracy participant, Nick Anthony. Nick placed Second at the State level. He was sponsored by Canby Post 117. I would like to thank all of the Posts that participated in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen contests. The participation numbers increased from the previous year. Keep up the good work.

On March 4, 2016, some 3rd District members and I attended the Luverne Veterans Home Annual Venison Dinner. It was an enjoyable day. We were able to visit with residents at the home and some were local District Veterans. As a group, we were impressed on how well the residents were satisfied with the care they receive. Keep up the good work at Luverne Veterans Home!

On recruitment of new and reinstated members, the 3rd District plan to expand



**Thomas Tauber, Commander
Sixth District**

Hello from the 'Fighting 6th',

The end of the year for Membership is coming soon. I hope that is not the end of getting new members. Recruiting is 365 days a year. Remember without new young members the Veterans of Foreign Wars will cease to exist. Thanks to the Posts throughout the State for attaining 100%.

I was invited to the Venison Dinner at the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls. What a wonderful home. We had a tour of the facility and an excellent meal. My wife and I were greeted at the door when we got there by probably the two most important figures at the home... The two Therapy Dogs. How Great that is for the residents.

Soon we will be seeing new Officers for the Posts, District and Department of Minnesota. Welcome to all.

I find that the Ten Commandments of Membership are crucial to our Organization. Take a moment and read them:

1. A MEMBER is the important person in any Organization.
2. A MEMBER is a part of our Organization - not an outsider.
3. A MEMBER is not a cold statistic, he/she is a flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.
4. A MEMBER is not dependent on us, we are dependent on them.
5. A MEMBER is not an interruption of our work, he/she is the purpose of it.
6. A MEMBER does us a favour when he/she calls and we are doing him/her a favour by serving them.
7. A MEMBER is the life blood of this and every Organization.
8. A MEMBER likes to associate with the progressive Organization that supports the Community.
9. A MEMBER is a person who brings us his/her wants - it is our job to fill those wants.
10. A MEMBER is deserving of the courteous and attentive treatment we can give him/her.

There you have them. I think all MEMBERS whether old, new or future can appreciate these Ten Commandments. Please use them to recruit new Members.

See you all at the State Convention in June.

Chuck Loftus, VFW 'Legend' Passes at Age 83

It is with regret... and Honor that we would like to inform you of the passing of Charles "Chuck" Loftus.

Chuck was a Past Seventh District Commander, served as a National Chief of Staff and served on one of the BEST Honor and Ritual Teams in the State! Chuck and his Team performed hundreds of Installations and Rituals (something one never forgets).

BUT, where Chuck achieved his Greatest accomplishments, was as the State Youth Activities Chairman for over twenty (20) years. Notably, he helped to create the VFW Special Olympic Program and brought 'peace' between the VFW Hockey Program

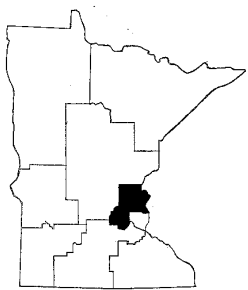
and the Minnesota Youth Hockey Association. His negotiations in both Programs a 'Legendary'!

Chuck passed away in Florida (we have few details) on March 28, 2016 at the age of 83. He was a long time member of Russell Gaylord VFW Post 159 (now a Defunct Post). At the time of his death, Chuck was a member of Coon Rapids VFW Post 9625.

A Memorial Service is planned for June 10, 2016 with interment at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. (More details to come.)

Chuck was always a 'fun' person to be around and he always shared his 'love of life' with everyone he met!

Remember those 'lonely' days during your Military Service... Many of our Veterans are having those 'lonely days' in our VA Medical Centers and Nursing Homes... Give them some of YOUR time. Visit a VA Medical Center or Nursing Home



**Chad Solheid, Commander
Seventh District**

Mid-Winter Conference was well attended. It was nice seeing many new faces and getting a chance to talk to some of the new members that attended. I hope you had a great time. Some good information was put out in regards to the programs the VFW is involved with. The main event was the VOD/ PP Winners. I got to spend some time talking with the District VOD winner as well as some of the other District winners. There was some stiff competition out there. I was very impressed with how the kids articulated their future ambitions. The winner's speech was awesome.

March 7th was the Grand Opening

for Building 21 at the Minneapolis Veterans home. The District was well represented as well as the Minnesota Veterans Color Guard's posting of the Colors. Federal and state leaders, residents, staff, community members, Veterans of Foreign Wars members, along with other Veterans Service Organizations came together to celebrate this milestone. The new building is designed around a community style living concept. The Veterans that will be living there will be able to call this home.

On June 5th at noon the 7th District will be holding the Poppy Banquet at Sgt. John Rice VFW Post 6316 in Blaine. On June 25th the 7th District will be hosting a Veterans Appreciation Day at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

State Convention this year is in Rochester and will once again offer officer OTI training for the new members as well as some of the more seasoned ones that may desire some extra training or want to expand their knowledge in other areas. Election and Installation of new officers will be Sunday morning and you are all encouraged to be there to vote for your new line officers that will represent the Department for the ensuing year.

Days meeting on April 30th and May 1st.

Hope to see you all in Rochester for our convention.

**Jamie Cassavant, President
Ninth District**

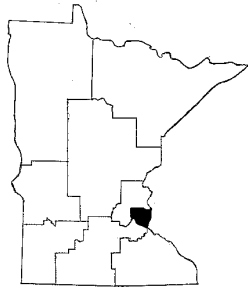
The 9th District Auxiliaries have worked so hard again this year. The projects, the events, the volunteerism that has gone on throughout the year is outstanding. I am truly looking forward to reading all the year-end reports to see again the variety and creative ways the auxiliaries serve our veterans, military and their families along with the work done in our communities and with our youth.

So with the year coming to an end and with that comes the time to say ... Thank you for making life easier and better for everyone around you. Thank you for your acts of kindness that have brightened everyone's day. Thank you for the memories you have made for so many. You have truly made a difference.

wants to be part of something like this, contact me. I, with Aux 1350 members, plan to be at Mpls VAHCS on Tuesday, April 12 for Games Night; anyone interested should meet us there. This is as close to a Black Jack table that I ever get!

Regarding Elections, contact your members to attend all meetings-especially this April meeting. Give everyone time to speak: Listen to your members. MENTOR, Mentor, mentor! Be a good Auxiliary member and Share your knowledge, while Hearing what others are saying. District 4 Convention is Saturday, April 16 at North St Paul VFW 1350; Please come! 8 a.m. for Joint Memorial Service, then the meeting, with program reports to follow. A light lunch will be available. THEN, I look forward to a strong contingent in Rochester for the Department Convention, June 9-12. If you cannot attend all the days, pick & choose a day - just Come!

Saturday, May 21 we are holding a repeat Spring Fling, with Pulled Pork sandwich, Potato Salad, plus more, at a cost of \$12. The Sweet Adelines have agreed to entertain, again. It was so fun, last year; I hope you will come again and bring all your family & friends. Dear members, Thank YOU for allowing me to represent District 4. I do hope I served you well.



**George Rux, Commander
Ninth District**

Greetings from the 9th District Commander.

The year is coming to an end. Elections will be held in April. Make sure you send in your election reports, and that all the names and phone numbers are correct. Even if your officers stay the same, you must send it in. I will try to make sure we are at 100% reporting on all reports, and am still working on becoming 100% in membership.

Had a great year with the 9th District President Jamie. We will be having a joint testimonial in Perham for our Loyalty

**Joanne Brown, President
Fourth District**

Dear Devoted Members,

What a nice winter; should not have deterred anyone from attending most events. Now spring and Year End Reports, Convention, Elections and we will try to do it all over, again. Since we've communicated last, I attended a venison dinner at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home, the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for Bldg. 21 at the Mpls Veteran's Home and the Sew-In at the St Cloud Veteran's Home. I really hope, some day, to come up with a monthly Sew-In for District 4 to benefit the residents at the Hastings & Minneapolis facilities. I have it in the thought phase; just need to transfer to the 'action' phase. If anyone reading this

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 30, 2016
STOP.... AND REMEMBER!

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA 2016 State Convention

Kahler Grand Hotel
Rochester, Minnesota
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

JUNE 8-12, 2016

****Note: Auxiliary ALOT training has been changed to ATS
(Auxiliary Training Seminar)**

WEDNESDAY, June 8:

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Early Registration for OTI - Mezzanine Lounge
District Officers Leadership Training - Regency Room

THURSDAY, June 9:

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

OTI & ATS Registration (Aux. times may vary)
Heritage Foyer

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

VFW Convention Registration - Heritage Foyer

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Auxiliary Convention Registration (Aux. times may vary)
Heritage Foyer

OFFICERS TRAINING SCHOOL:

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Post & District Officers Training

Heritage Hall III

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Quartermaster & Men's Auxiliary Treasurer Class

Heritage Hall III

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Auxiliary ATS Training Session - Heritage Hall I

Auxiliary ATS Breakout Sessions TBD

STATE CONVENTION BUSINESS:

4:30 – 6:00 PM

Finance Committee meeting - Director's Room

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Auxiliary Council of Administration (See Auxiliary Agenda)

Heritage Hall II-III

7:00 – 9:00 PM

V.F.W. Council of Administration meeting - Heritage Hall I

PASS OUT RESOLUTIONS

FRIDAY, JUNE 10:

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

VFW Registration - Heritage Foyer

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Auxiliary Registration (Aux. times may vary) - Heritage Foyer

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

V.F.W. and Auxiliary Joint Awards Session - Heritage Hall I

VFW Program Recognition Awards

(Agenda established by Department Headquarters)

Naming of All-State Team of Post Commanders

Naming of All-State Team of Post Quartermasters

11:45 AM

Past State Commanders and Presidents Luncheon - Elizabethan

1:30 – 4:30 PM

Opening Auxiliary Convention (See Auxiliary Agenda)

Heritage Hall II-III

1:00 – 2:00 PM

COMMITTEE MEETING ASSIGNMENTS

National Security/Foreign Affairs/POW

Windsor I

By-Laws/Ritual/Rules

Regency Room

General Resolutions/Extension-Membership

Windsor II

Finance/Internal Affairs

Director's Room

Legislative/Veterans' Service/Employment

Windsor III

2:30 – 4:30 PM

Gambling Meeting - Heritage Hall I

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Memorial Service - Heritage II-III

Guest Speaker – Rachel Peterson, Past V.O.D. Student and Founder of 'Abiding Bronze Star'

SATURDAY, JUNE 11:

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

VFW Registration - Heritage Foyer

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Auxiliary Registration (Aux. times may vary)

Heritage Foyer

8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Auxiliary Convention Session (See Auxiliary Agenda)

Heritage Hall II-III

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Open Convention - Heritage Hall I

Roll Call of Officers – Rules Committee

Committee Reports

Nomination of Officers

Men's Auxiliary Convention Meeting - Windsor III

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Recess

12:00 Noon

Caucuses

1:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Dist 1: Windsor I, Dist 2: Windsor III, Dist 3: Viking, Dist 4: Windsor II, Dist 5: Mayo Brothers, Dist 6: Centennial, Dist 7: Marriott Ballroom, Dist 8: Director's Room, Dist 9: Regency

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Church Service - Viking Room

5:45 – 6:45 PM

Social - Heritage Foyer

7:00 PM

Banquet - Heritage Ballroom

Guest Speaker – TBA - Master of Ceremony – TBA

Sunday, June 12:

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

VFW Registration - Heritage Foyer

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Reconvene Convention - Heritage Hall I

Roll Call of Officers

Committee Reports

Election of Officers

8:30 – 11:30 PM

Auxiliary Convention Session (See Auxiliary Agenda)

Heritage Hall II-III

12:00 – 12:45 PM

Joint Installation of Officers - Heritage Hall II-III

12:45 – 1:00 PM

Council of Administration Brief 2016-17 Meeting

Heritage Hall I

12:45 PM

Auxiliary Brief 2016-2017 C of A Meeting - Heritage Hall II-III

2016 Midwinter Banquet - State Winners Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen



Quidelynn Hasler, representing the Ninth District and Sponsored by Crookston VFW Post 1902 was named the 2016 Minnesota State Voice of Democracy Winner at the 113th State Midwinter Conference in Minneapolis on January 23, 2016. Pictured (l-r) are State VFW Voice of Democracy Chairman Mike Pierce, State Auxiliary President Millie Lauer, State Winner Quidelynn and State Commander Dewey Hermanson.



The 2016 VFW State Patriot's Pen Winner Rosemarie Martina Miller accepts her First Place Award from State Voice of Democracy Chairman Mike Pierce during the 113th Midwinter Banquet at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center on January 23, 2016. Pictured (l-r) are State Commander Dewey Hermanson, State President Millie Lauer, Mike Pierce and Rosemarie.



Before the Midwinter Banquet, all nine District Voice of Democracy Winners and the State Patriot's Pen Winner took a couple of minutes for a group photo. Pictured (l-r) row one; First District VOD Winner Katherine Rose Beech, Seventh District Winner Sarah Burch, Eighth District Winner Madisyn Rhea Littler, Ninth District Winner Quidelynn Hasler, State Patriot Pen Winner Rosemarie Martina Miller. Row two; Fourth District Winner Charles Floeder, Sixth District Winner Isaac Vliem, Second District Winner Dylan Cownie, Fifth District Winner Matthew Bittman and Third District Winner Nicholas Antony.

Wyndham Hotel Group Signs On As Newest VFW Member Benefit April 01, 2016

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Looking for the best hotel discounts before booking your next trip? VFW members can now save up to 20%* off the best available rate with Wyndham Hotel Group's 14 different brands and 7,600 locations around the world. Browse all available member offers online to see how you can earn added travel deals on top of the best available rate. Simply login to www.vfw.org and look for Wyndham Hotel Group on the Travel Services page in the Member Benefits section.

With a casual atmosphere, thoughtful touches, and attentive, courteous service, these hotels and resorts provide an upscale, full-service brand with properties located in key vacation and business destinations across the world. Take advantage of the comfort and amenities you would expect in a world-class hotel, including beautifully appointed public areas, thoughtfully detailed guest rooms and distinct dining options. Business locations feature meeting spaces flexible for large and small events, as well as business and fitness centers. Many resorts also offer golf, tennis, beautiful beaches, spas and more!

VFW members may also take advantage of a line of business-oriented hotels, perfectly situated in key business, airport and suburban locations. Enjoy tasteful, intimate hotels with comfortable guest rooms that offer a wealth of thoughtful amenities. Every hotel provides casual dining options, inviting lobbies and cozy library lounges for reading or socializing. And of course, flexible meeting space that can accommodate a wide range of functions.

From simple oceanside ceremonies to dazzling ballroom receptions, VFW members & families will relish in unique destinations for an unforgettable wedding

experience! With the support of a Wedding Professional, design your dream wedding down to the most thoughtful details, while taking advantage of exceptional services that ensure a memorable experience for you and your guests.

The celebration continues when you plan your honeymoon getaway. Whether you are looking for adventurous activities or a secluded, romantic hideaway, enjoy the endless opportunities for fun and relaxation. Begin planning your special day by browsing our unique wedding destinations or provide us with more information and we will match you with a hotel or resort that meets your personal needs.

Whatever your reason for traveling, the VFW Member Hotel Savings Program offers incredible hotel package deals. Whether you're booking a spontaneous weekend getaway or need to plan your next business venture, choose a package that fits your style, complete with added discounts and perks to elevate your trip. Find more information about our available packages online – available in a wide variety of locations across the U.S. Be sure to check these offers frequently, as new packages are added often.

Don't forget to make the most of your stay by becoming a Rewards Member that provides additional promotions, where you can earn extra bonus points to use toward free nights, resort vacations, and other money-saving perks. You can also redeem points for travel accessories, music downloads, and other great rewards just by being a Rewards Member. Find out how you can earn extra rewards and travel discounts online, or for those of you who may not be Rewards Members yet, you can join for free any time.

STATE PISTOL COMPETITORS SHOW THEIR METAL

April 10, 2016, Osseo, Minnesota
by Tom Heinrich, Tournament Chairman



Twenty-two shooters were competing for top honors at the Third Annual State VFW Pistol Tournament. The weekend event began with a social held at Palmer Lake VFW Post 3915 on Saturday night. This was the inaugural event for the Post home's new "Bob Hopp NASCAR" room. It was a great time.

The shooting event started early Sunday at the Osseo Gun Club in downtown Osseo, MN. Taking top honors in the .22 Class were: 1st Place, Chris Davey, Post 3915 Palmer Lake; 2nd Place, Blair Sovari Post 3915 Palmer Lake; 3rd Place, Dennis Maddox Post 5518 Elk River/Rogers. The winners in the Open Class were: 1st Place, Dennis Maddox Post 5518 Elk River/Rogers; 2nd Place, Tanner Lind Post 3915 Palmer Lake; 3rd Place, Foster Transburg Post 5145 New Prague.

At the Osseo Gun Club participants enjoyed a light breakfast before the event. Once the shooting started the Range Safety Officers keep the shooters on task. After the scoring was completed by the judges a light lunch was served and the prize drawing got underway. There was something for everyone! Sincere thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers who helped with the scoring, range safety, pictures and food. We all had a great time.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Third Annual State VFW Pistol Competition was a HUGE success... Thanks to the 'time and Dedication' that was applied by Tom Heinrich and the members of Palmer Lake VFW Post 3915. This was a Class Act! I am looking forward to next year's event!

Sometimes.... Just getting together and Sharing A Little Camraderie,
Heals a 'Hurting' Mind.
Events like the VFW State Pistol Competition are the
'medicine and healing' we need!



2016 - 2017 Voice of Democracy Theme

**"MY RESPONSIBILITY
TO AMERICA"**

2016 - 2017 Patriot's Pen Theme

**"THE AMERICA I
BELIEVE IN"**



MINNESOTA'S #2 AND #3 'AA' BANTAM HOCKEY TEAMS CLASH IN SEMI-FINALS OF THE 2016 STATE VFW BANTAM HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

MARCH 18 - 20, 2016



On March 18, 2016, ten Teams representing all nine (9) VFW Districts prepared to 'face-off' for the Title of Minnesota's Best VFW Bantam Hockey Team. Representing the First District was Waseca, sponsored by Sweet-Sommers VFW Post 1642; representing the Second District was Rosemount, sponsored by Rosemount VFW Post 9433; representing the Third District was Northfield (runner-up District 1), sponsored by Northfield VFW Post 4393; representing the Fourth District was White Bear Lake, sponsored by Keep-Zimmer VFW Post 1782; representing the Fifth District were the Duluth Lakers (runner-up District 8), sponsored by Duluth VFW Post 137; representing the Sixth District was Brainerd, sponsored by Mahlum-Hanson VFW Post 1647; representing the Seventh District was Blaine, sponsored by Sgt. John Rice VFW Post 6316; representing the Eighth District was Cloquet, sponsored by Herbert-Kennedy VFW Post 3979; representing the Ninth District was Moorhead, sponsored by Dilworth-Moorhead VFW Post 1223 and rounding out the tournament was the Host Team Roseau, sponsored by Roseau VFW Post 8663.

The Game summaries for day one are as follows:

GAME ONE: White Bear Lake defeated Northfield in a walk-over 13-0

GAME TWO: Duluth defeated Rosemount in a better game than the score showed 10-4.

GAME THREE: Cloquet defeated Brainerd in a very good game 5-3.

GAME FOUR: Blaine defeated a very tough Roseau team 4-2.

GAME FIVE: Moorhead had their way with the other team from the First District when they defeated Waseca 13-0.

It might be noted at this juncture, that Waseca and Northfield are 'A' Bantam teams. The other seven (7) teams were 'AA' Bantam teams. Both Waseca and Northfield played their 'hearts' out during this Tournament against some very good teams! Their efforts will be make them better teams next year.

The Game summaries for day two are as follows:

GAME SIX Championship Side: #3 Cloquet defeated #4 Blaine 10-4. This sent Blaine down to the Consolation side.

GAME SEVEN Consolation Side: Brainerd sent Roseau home in a Great game of two well matched teams 2-1.

GAME EIGHT Consolation Side: Rosemount outplayed Northfield and sent them on their long trip home 13-1.

GAME NINE Championship Side: White Bear Lake showed their speed and defeated a tough Duluth team 4-1. White Bear Lake goes to the Championship Game and Duluth will play for Third Place.

GAME TEN Consolation Side: Brainerd played another Great game sending Waseca on their long drive home 13-0. Brainerd proceeds to the Consolation Championship game.

GAME ELEVEN Consolation Side: Rosemount sends Blaine home in a Penalty filled game with one game ejection 3-0. Rosemount will face Brainerd in the Consolation Championship Game on the third day of the Tournament.

GAME TWELVE Championship Side: This was the most anticipated game of the Tournament... Minnesota Hockey's #3 (Moorhead)

Team facing off against Minnesota Hockey's #4 (Cloquet) Team. To most, this was really the Championship Game. After three periods of some GREAT Hockey, the ice cleared, the FULL stands emptied and Moorhead was the victor in a 3-2 win. Moorhead will play White Bear Lake for the Tournament Championship and Cloquet will face their neighbors Duluth in the Third Place Game.

The Game summaries for day three are as follows:

CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP:

Rosemount vs Brainerd. Brainerd continued to fire on all cylinders. Proving to be the most consistent Team in the Tournament. Rosemount may have been still thinking about their previous game with Blaine. Brainerd came out of the first period up by three goals. In the the second period both teams exchanged goals making the score 4-1. In the third period, Rosemount skated hard, but it wasn't enough.... Game ended in Brainerd's favor 5-1. Brainerd takes the Consolation Championship trophy home!

THIRD PLACE:

Duluth vs Cloquet. This was obviously a 'backyard' rivalry, that could have been played on any 'pond' in the Duluth/Cloquet area. In the first period, Duluth scored first. In the second period, Cloquet found their skates and the back of the net with three goals of their own. In the third period, Cloquet showed why they are one of the top teams in the State, by scoring three more goals and winning the 'neighborhood' battle 6-2. Cloquet takes home the THIRD PLACE TROPHY!

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:

White Bear Lake vs Moorhead. Obviously, this was Moorhead's home ice and the arena was 'packed'!!! In the first period, White Bear Lake showed their speed and shocked the 'Spuds' with an early 'short-handed' biscuit in the net. But, unfortunately, the Spuds are a very patient team. First period ended 1-1. In the second period, Moorhead took control of the game and their dominance resulted in 5-1 lead. The third period remained even with the White Bear Lake Goaltender trying to keep the 'Bears' in the game. But, it wasn't enough. In the last minute, Moorhead scores their fifth and last goal. The Game ended 5-1 and Moorhead is the 2016 VFW STATE 'A' BANTAM CHAMPION!!!

On behalf of State Commander Dewey Hermanson, we would like to THANK ALL the Teams, Players, Coaches and Parents for participating not only in the 2016 VFW State Bantam Hockey Tournament, but also taking part in one of the VFW's BEST Youth Programs.

The State VFW Tournament would not have been a success without the following: Dennis Bushy, State Hockey Tournament Chairman and Moorhead Ice Arena Manager; Shane Kvalevog, for doing all the critical 'logistics' work and organization of Team communications; John Lopez, the Tournament Director; the Moorhead Youth Hockey Association and ALL of their Volunteers; the members of Dilworth/Moorhead VFW and Auxiliary for all their time and efforts and State Junior Vice Commander Rick Bugbee for all of his guidance and expertise.

The VFW and Sport Clips Are Giving Away Thousands in College Scholarships for Veterans

April 30 deadline to apply is approaching quickly

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 4, 2016) – Service members and veterans only have twenty-seven days remaining to submit an application to the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program to be considered for the fall 2016 semester. The deadline for completed applications is April 30.

"Too many veterans exhaust their education benefits before actually earning a degree," explained Lynn Rolf III, director of VFW programs. "The Help A Hero Scholarship program allows service members and veterans the chance to stay in school without having to face the financial burden that massive student loan debt can be."

Enacted in 2013, Help A Hero scholarships provide service members and

veterans with the financial assistance they need to reach their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Help A Hero scholarships of up to \$5,000 are awarded twice a year to qualified applicants to help cover the rising costs of tuition and fees.

In just over two years, the Help A Hero Scholarship program has awarded more than \$1.8 million in financial aid and has provided college scholarships to nearly 450 service members and veterans.

Interested in applying? Visit www.vfw.org/scholarship for more information on the eligibility requirements and to access the application.



On behalf of the VFW Foundation, State Commander Dewey Hermanson presents a check for \$5,000 to Minnesota Warriors Ice Hockey Team. Accepting the check was Chris Price, President of the Minnesota Warriors Ice Hockey Program.

V.F.W. Convention Housing Reservations Rochester, MN June 9-12, 2016			
Name (Please PRINT in Boxes) <input type="text"/>			
Complete Address: <input type="text"/>			
Phone <input type="text"/>	Email <input type="text"/>	Post/Auxiliary # <input type="text"/>	District # <input type="text"/>
Arrival Date: <input type="text"/>		Departure Date: <input type="text"/>	
Sharing room with: <input type="text"/>			
Requests: <input type="text"/>			
Kahler Grand (Convention Site)	Standard Rm \$89 ^{TX} (per night): ___ King ___ 2 Full	Deluxe Rm \$99 ^{TX} (per night): ___ King ___ 2 Full	Executive Rm \$129 ^{TX} (per night): ___ King ___ 2 Full
OR			
Kahler Inn & Suites (1 Blk Away from Kahler Grand)	Standard Rm \$89 ^{TX} (per night): ___ Queen/King ___ 2 Queens	Mini-Suite \$99 ^{TX} (per night): ___ 2 Doubles ___ 2 Queens	
Credit Card Information (Reservation will not be made without a guarantee)			
Credit Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express		Expiration Date: <input type="text"/>	
Card Number: <input type="text"/>		Name on Card: <input type="text"/>	
OR			
Check # <input type="text"/> for one (1) night made out to the Hotel of your Choice <input type="text"/>			
DEADLINE DATE: May 15, 2015		Mail Housing Reservations to: Department of Minnesota- VFW, Rice Street Station PO Box 17146, St Paul, MN 55117	
Convention Banquet Saturday, June 11, 2016, Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester			
Please reserve <input type="text"/> tickets at \$27.00 each. Enclosed is check # <input type="text"/> for \$ <input type="text"/> .			
Name: <input type="text"/>		Phone: <input type="text"/>	
Post/Aux # <input type="text"/>		District # <input type="text"/>	
MENU: Prime Rib w/ Au Jus, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable and Alternating Chocolate or Raspberry Tiger Cake			
Tickets will NOT be mailed & can be picked up at Registration			
Deadline: May 31, 2016		Mail Banquet Reservations to: Department of Minnesota- VFW, Rice Street Station PO Box 17146, St Paul, MN 55117	

You FOUGHT for the RIGHT to belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars!!!

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES TODAY!!!

117th NATIONAL CONVENTION

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RESOLUTIONS

NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NATIONAL POW/MIA SUBCOMMITTEE (401-500)

- 401
- 402
- 403
- 404
- 405
- 406
- 407
- 408
- 409
- 410
- 411
- 412
- 413
- 414
- 415
- 416
- 417
- 418
- 419
- 420
- 421
- 422
- 423
- END SEQUESTRATION
- SUPPORT THE TROOPS AND THEIR WAR AGAINST TERRORISM
- KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT
- SECURE AMERICA’S BORDERS
- HALT ROGUE NATION WMD PROGRAMS
- SUPPORT BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS
- PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE
- LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES
- INCREASE AND EXTEND TSP MATCH
- MST INCIDENT REPORTING AND TREATMENT
- ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP MANDATE
- PROVIDE DD-214s TO ALL RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS
- CORRECT RESERVE COMPONENT EARLY RETIREMENT PAY PROVISIONS
- PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION
- OPPOSE TRICARE FEE CHANGES
- REVISE UNFAVORABLE DISCHARGE REVIEW PROCEDURES
- REPEAL SBP/DIC OFFSET
- REFORM THE UNIFORMED SERVICES FORMER SPOUSES PROTECTION ACT
- SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN
- SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL
- PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM

VETERANS SERVICE, LEGISLATIVE, EMPLOYMENT (601-700)

- 601
- 602
- 603
- 604
- 605
- 606
- 607
- 608
- 609
- 610
- 611
- 612
- 613
- 614
- 615
- 616
- 617
- 618
- 619
- 620
- 621
- 622
- 623
- 624
- 625
- ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET
- OPPOSE VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENT INCREASES
- COMPETITIVE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR VA AND DOD HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS
- VA MEDICARE and TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT
- CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED CONDI
TION AS A CLAIM FOR VA COMPENSATION
- EXTENDING GULF WAR PRESUMPTIONS AND HEALTH CARE BEYOND 2016
AND TO AFGHANISTAN THEATER VETERANS
- NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY
- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE
- PTSD AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE
- VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS
- EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS
- SUSTAINABLE NON-VA HEALTH CARE OPTIONS FOR VETERANS
- EXTEND SERVICE CONNECTION PRESUMPTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS
- TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION
- HEARING LOSS COMPENSATION
- VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD
- IMPROVE EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS
- BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE
- TOXIC EXPOSURES
- MARKER MEDALLION
- HOMELESS VETERANS PRIORITIES
- ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
- VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
- SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS
- VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Proposed Changes to the Department By-Laws

The State By-Laws Committee met on January 22, 2016 during the Midwinter Conference. During that meeting, the following recommended changes to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Minnesota By-Laws were made. These changes will be presented at the 2016 Department of Minnesota State Convention in Rochester, Minnesota from June 9-12, 2016. Please note the following Recommended changes: (Due to space, a more detailed copy of these changes will be sent to each Post Commander.)

ARTICLE III AUTHORITY

Section 2:
Deleting “of” between Department and Council in line 2.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS:

Section 1: OFFICERS:

(a)
Deleting “Veterans Service Committee” in line 3.

Section 2: ELECTION
Deleting “nominating” in line 1.

Section 3: VACANCIES:
Inserting “vacant by the Department Commander” between “declared” and “and” in line 1.

Section 6: DEPARTMENT DISTRICTS:
(a)
Deleting “The” at the beginning of line 1, insert “serves as” between “Commanders” and “members” and insert “and” between “administration” and “shall”, line 2, insert “properly” at the beginning of the line, delete “and represent”.

(b)
Deleting “provided however that no District shall be formed with less than ten (10) active Posts and 750 members; and insert “in compliance with Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National By-Laws” in lieu thereof in lines 2 & 3.

(c)
Subparagraph 3.
Deleting “in” on line 2 and “he” and insert “they” in line 3.

ARTICLE VI PER CAPITA TAX

Section 1: PER CAPITA TAX:

Deleting “and shall include a year’s subscription to the Gopher Oversea’r, the official organ of the Department of Minnesota.” And insert a period following “jurisdiction” in lines 3 & 4.

ARTICLE VIII DELEGATES: DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS AND DEPARTMENT CONFER- ENCES

Section 2:
Deleting (paragraph 1) “and” in line 1, “every” in line 2, “and every” in line 5, inserting “such delin- quency” between the words “and” and “will”; (paragraph 2) delete “him” and insert “the Quartermas- ter” in line 2, delete “as and” in line 3; (paragraph 4) delete “a” between “issued” and “delegate”, delete “badge” and insert “credentials”.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

Section 1: COMMITTEE AND CONVENTION DIRECTOR:
Inserting “for confirmation” following “Administration” on line 8.

Section 2: FINANCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:
Deleting “AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS” from the title; (paragraph 1) deleting “and Internal Affairs” on line 2; (paragraph 3 DUTIES:) delete “and Internal Affairs” from line 1, delete “and Internal Affairs” from lines 7, 8, 9, 10, 14 & 17, deleting “The Finance and Internal Affairs Committee shall assist with the formulation and periodic updates to the Manual of Personnel Policy at the request of the Depart- ment Council of Administration” in lines 12 to 14; (paragraph 3) deleting “and Internal Affairs”.

Section 3: BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:
Deleting (paragraph 1) “permanent” between “a” and “Department” of line 1; (paragraph 2) deleting “and such meeting to be held at Department Headquarters office”, deleting “Senior Past Department Commander” and inserting “Department Judge Advocate” on lines 2 & 3; deleting everything after “Committee” and insert a period on lines 3 & 4.

Section 5: POPPY COMMITTEE
(a)
Inserting “a” between “of” and “department, inserting “Poppy” between “Department” and “Chair- man” on line 1; inserting “Poppy” between “Auxiliary” and “Chairman”, insert “Poppy” between “Dis- trict” and “Chairmen” on line 2; inserting “Poppy” between “District” and “Chairmen”.

Amendment to ARTICLE IX, COMMITTEES

Amend ARTICLE IX, Committees by adding Section 6: INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:, the amended Section 6 shall read as follows:

Section 6: INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: The Department Internal Affairs Com- mittee shall be comprised of the current Department Commander, Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Junior Vice Commander, Department Judge Advocate and the immediate Past Department Commander. The Department Internal Affairs Committee shall have jurisdiction over varying internal affairs affecting the Depart- ment. The Committee shall have authority over hiring Office Supervisors for both Department Offices when a vacancy exists, to be affirmed by the Department Council of Administration. The Department Internal Affairs Committee shall formulate and periodically update a Manual of Personnel Policy that shall construe employment provisions for Department employees, with any changes thereto be ratified by the Department Council of Administration.

ARTICLE XI OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Section 1: OFFICIAL PUBLICATION:
Deleting “organ of” from line 2.

ARTICLE XII AMMENDMENTS

Section 1:
Deleting “a” between “by” and “Department” and insert “the” on line 4.

GOPHER OVERSEA’R

State Publications Survey

NOTE: If you have not completed this Survey, please do so now.

In an effort to stay abreast of Modern Technology and the ‘New Generation’ of Veterans, we are asking that ALL Minnesota VFW Members please complete the following State Publications Survey:

A. In what ‘media’ would you like to receive the Gopher Oversea’r?

- ☐ Current printed media - sent to your home.
- ☐ Email media - sent to your email address.
- ☐ Minnesota VFW Web Page - posted after each Oversea’r Publication.

B. What age bracket are you in?

- ☐ Millennial Generation (Born 1986 to 2006).
- ☐ Generation-X (Born 1965 - 1985).
- ☐ Baby Boomers (Born 1946 - 1964).
- ☐ Greatest Generation (Born 1901 - 1945).

C. Would you be willing to share your email address with the Department of Minnesota, VFW?

- ☐ Yes: Email address: _____
- ☐ NO!

D. At this point, we do not need your home address. But, are you willing to give us your VFW Membership number?

- ☐ Yes: VFW Membership #: _____
- ☐ NO!

Please send the completed Survey to:

**Department of Minnesota, VFW
ATTN: Oversea’r Publications Survey
Rice Street Station, P.O. Box 17146
St. Paul, MN 55117
-OR-**

This Form will also be available on our Minnesota VFW Web Page at: www.mn.gov/vfw

2016 Buddy Poppy Program Off and Running
With Display Cards Distributed This Month

The dates for the 2016 Poppy Card and Poppy distribution have been announced. In the Metropolitan seven (7) county area Poppy Display Card Distribution will start on "FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016" at 12:01 a.m. with closed territories for ten (10) days. The distribution of Buddy Poppies will begin "Friday, MAY 20, 2016" at 12:01 a.m. with closed territories until Noon of May 20th. Poppy Distribution will last for one or two days, depending on each Post and Auxiliary. Both Department Chairmen recommend that ALL Posts and Auxiliaries in the out-state area comply with these dates as close as possible. They also recommend that each Post and Auxiliary work closely with any and all American Legion or other VFW Posts in their area in or on the borders of their territories. By doing so, everyone will have a very successful 2016 Buddy Poppy Program. The State Poppy Chairmen asked that all Posts in the Seven County Metro area (Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Carver, Anoka and Scott) contact their District Poppy Chairmen for details on Territorial borders. Poppy chairmen are also encouraged to look for Department and District bulletins that might outline other details of the Annual Poppy Card and Poppy Days. It is also recommended that at the conclusion of your Post/Auxiliary Memorial Day Sale, that your Chairmen sit down and complete all Poppy Reports the same day and get them in the mail the next day. Of importance is the "Auxiliary Poppy Report Form".

The Midwinter meeting also unveiled another Department of Minnesota VFW Buddy Poppy Display Card. This display card encourages the public to donate and to wear a VFW Buddy Poppy. This year's Card, as those of past years, help all of us to reflect upon the sacrifices our Nation's Veterans --- with a special focus on Vietnam Veterans. All Posts are urged to purchase a number of these cards from Department Headquarters and seek donations from local merchants and ask them to display the cards in their businesses. These cards can also be used to get donations from patrons in Post Homes.

Those display cards distributed within the Post Home can and should be displayed on the walls of Clubroom or Hall. They ARE NOT to leave the building.

Congratulations to all Posts that entered a Poppy Display at the Mid-Winter Poppy Display Contest.

Many EXCELLENT Displays!

There were a total 32 Displays and a total of 20,246 Poppies used


The following were judged to be the State Winners:

Category I
Public Promotion
1st Place: Post # 7902, 5th District
2nd Place: Post # 6316, 7th District
3rd Place: Post# 217, 7th District


Category II
Memorial or Inspirational
1st Place: Post # 3723, 1st District
2nd Place: Post # 3979, 9th District
3rd Place: Post # 246, 7th District

Category III
Artistic or Decorative
1st Place: Post # 5555, 7st District
2nd Place: Post # 3915, 7th District
3rd Place: Post # 742, 3rd District


Category V
Corsages and Misc.
1st Place: Post # 6316, 7th District
2nd Place: Post # 1296, 7th District



REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICES



Poppy Day is _____ 2016
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.A. and Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota Post # _____



They're Serving NOW, Please Remember Them! — Wear A

V.F.W. BUDDY POPPY

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF OUR FELLOW COMRADES - MAKES EVERYDAY - BUDDY POPPY DAY!!!

32nd ANNUAL
OFFICER'S TRAINING SCHOOL (OTI)

TO: VFW Members, Post Officers, District Officer

WHAT: OFFICER'S TRAINING SCHOOL

WHEN: JUNE 9, 2016

WHERE: Kahler Grand Hotel
20 SW Second Ave., Rochester, MN 55902

TIME: 8:00 - 4:00 P.M., Thurs. June 11th

CHOOSE from 'Commander' (Leadership) Class or 'Quartermaster' (Financial/Trustee) Class

COST: \$75.00 per person by May 20, 2016
— includes light breakfast, lunch, registration and supplies.

OFFICER'S TRAINING SCHOOL

POST REGISTRATION

Full Name _____

Primary Phone # _____ Post # _____ District # _____

Attending: _____ Commander School OR _____ Quartermaster School

Email (or Mail) Address To receive Confirmation: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my reservation at \$75.00 each for OTI June 9, 2016.

Make checks payable to "Department of Minnesota, V.F.W."

MAIL FORM TO:
Department of Minnesota, V.F.W.
Rice Street Station, PO Box 17146; St Paul, MN 55117

6th ANNUAL
Auxiliary Training Seminar (ATS)

TO: Ladies Auxiliary Members on All Levels

WHAT: Leadership Seminars

WHEN: JUNE 9, 2016

WHERE: Kahler Grand Hotel
20 SW Second Ave., Rochester, MN 55902

TIME: 9 AM—3:30 PM, Thurs. June 10th

CHOOSE from Breakouts: 'District Officers & Inspections' Session or 'Treasurers & By-Laws Review' Session

COST: \$25.00 per person by May 20, 2016
— includes light breakfast, lunch, registration and supplies.

Auxiliary Training Seminar REGISTRATION

Full Name _____

Primary Phone # _____ Aux. # _____ District # _____

Attending Breakout: _____ District Officers & Inspections Session
_____ Treasurers & By-Laws Session

Email (or Mail) Address To receive Confirmation: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my reservations at \$25.00 each for A.T.S. June 9, 2016.

Make checks payable to "Department of Minnesota, V.F.W."

MAIL FORM TO:
Department of Minnesota, V.F.W.
Rice Street Station, PO Box 17146; St Paul, MN 55117



MINNESOTA VFW CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Expanding and Preserving the Programs of the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Present and the Future!



The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been 'fighting' for Veterans since 1899. We have worked endlessly to gain the Benefits and Entitlements that Our Veterans deserve. For over 116 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has spent millions of dollars and hours to Educate our Youth and build our Communities in the areas of Patriotism, Americanism and those things that are RIGHT for the United States of America. The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have placed their 'bodies and minds' between the enemies of this Great Nation to preserve the American way and the FREEDOM of not only the United States, but other nations as well.

With that said, the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars Charitable Association (MN VFW Charitable Association) is asking that you remember this Sacrifice through your Gift Giving and Donations.

There are a number ways that you can Preserve the Memory of the Sacrifices of our Veterans for now and the future:

Using the form below, Donate to the VFW Charitable Association.

- * Establish a monthly or annual deduction to the MN VFW Charitable Association from your checking account or credit card.
- * Designate your Donation to a Charitable Trust in the name of the MN VFW Charitable Association.
- * Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity to the

MN VFW Charitable Association.
 * Simply make a donation to the MN VFW Charitable Association.
 * Donate to the VFW Outdoor Fund.
 * Donate through the MN VFW Charitable Association Annual Raffle Calendar.

We certainly Appreciate the Consideration of the VFW Charitable Association in your Gift Giving Plans. Your Donation will ensure the future of the Programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For more information, please contact the Secretary of the VFW Charitable Association at 651-291-1757 or email us at mnvfw@vfwmn.us or by writing to: VFW Charitable Association, 20 W. 12th St., Room B-5, St. Paul, MN 55155

The VFW Charitable Association is a 501-c-3 Charitable Organization under IRS Code.



Mail your Donation to: VFW Charitable Association, Rice Street Station, P.O. Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117

Please send more information about the VFW Charitable Association, its purpose and Programs.

Please accept my Tax Deductible Donation of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other: _____

Would you like to be an ANNUAL Donor? _____ (Yes or No)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Earmark for one of the following: _____ General Un-designated

_____ VFW Outdoor Fund _____ Veterans Service _____ VFW Programs

As a Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, you should take an Interest in the Dealings of YOUR Organization on the Post, District, Department and National levels. Attending Post, District, State Functions, like your Post Meetings would be a GOOD start.

THE AVTT TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL COMING TO EAGLE'S HEALING NEST

Honor
Respect
Remember



July 14-17, 2016

Eagle's Healing Nest

310 US Hwy 71 N

Sauk Centre, MN 56378

1-320-351-6200

Events start at 12 Noon on Thursday, the 14th and run through 3:00PM, Sunday, the 17th.

Events/programs take place each day.

See website for updates: www.eagleshealingnest.com



www.americanveteranstravelingtribute.com

Purple CrossSM

Funeral Plans for Veterans

Purple Cross has been serving America's Veterans since 1948 and continues to offer the best funeral

plans available. With Funeral Preplanning -you: •

protect your burial funds from nursing home expenses

• Protect your family from financial burden in time of

grief • gain peace of mind by knowing your funeral is

taken care of.

Yes, I would like to know more about:

Traditional Funeral Cost Cremation Cost

Payment Plan Options Discount Plans

For a free Funeral Preplanning Cost Estimate, please return this coupon to Purple Cross, 15116 Manitou Rd NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call Jerry Albrecht at 952-226-6393. Absolutely no obligation!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

WORLD WAR II TOURS

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

June 2-14 • August 11-23, 2016

Paris • Normandy Landing Beaches • Reims • General Patton's Grave
 Battle of the Bulge • Remagen Bridge • Nuremberg • Dachau Memorial
 Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden • Munich

VIETNAM TOUR

March 13-23, 2016



Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) • My Tho • Cu Chi Tunnels
 Mekong Delta • Nha Trang • Cam Ranh AF Base • Hue
 Chu La • Hoi An • Da Nang • Quang Tri • A Shau Valley
 Halong Bay Cruise • Hanoi • DMZ • US Military Bases

Call for Free Brochures 1-888-414-4177 www.RupiperTours.com